

CAMDEN CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of meeting held July 11, 2012, 7-9:30 PM

Draft version

PRESENT: Members of the Commission - Doug Johnson, John Evrard, Carla Ferguson, Barbara Melchiskey, David Kern, Robin Kern

Non-members - Nancy Caudle-Johnson (Tree City USA and Arbor Day coordinator)

Doug Johnson opened the meeting. The minutes of the May 30th meeting were discussed, three corrections were made and the minutes were then unanimously approved. The agenda was then addressed as follows:

- 1) a discussion of the heritage tree project was initiated by Robin Kern, who wants to develop an application form that would be available for people to nominate trees of significance. Robin and Nancy Caudle-Johnson will work on this application form. A provision on heritage trees exists in a Community Forest Heritage Tree provision, drafted by Doug and Nancy, and adopted by the town in 1995. Nancy will provide this provision and its history to Robin. Nancy will also get a copy of the Castine, Maine ordinance protecting both public and private elms and make this available. In this way, drawing on a number of application forms already existing in Maine and around the country and drawing on the regional work on heritage trees, a broad but still particular application form can be developed;
- 2) Doug reported on the inspection of Ragged Mountain trees that are adjacent to the recently developed skate ski trail. This inspection took the form of a hike in which Doug, David Kern and Roger Ritmaster participated. Doug was pleased with the condition of the oaks along the trail, attributing their health primarily to the plentiful rain this spring and summer. Doug will write a report and submit it to all interested parties;
- 3) Nancy reported on a number of areas of interest: (a) Central Maine Power is initiating a pruning program of all rights of way in the town of Camden. It will be a radical pruning program, which in her opinion and the opinion of many others threatens trees. The recent history of resistance to such a program in Rockland was discussed, as were various means to inform the public of this program and its problems. No definite course of action was arrived at, although Doug will bring the pruning program to the attention of the town manager, (2) a "BioBlitz" program in Falmouth (developed primarily by Robert Shafto), devised to document the varieties of flora and fauna existing in an area of land owned by the town, which Nancy felt was a good idea and could be used in Camden in such areas as the Bog;
- 4) Robin provided her understanding of the Commission's finances at this point, an understanding attained through her conversations with Carol Sue Greenleaf, finance director, who has been so helpful. The Commission's Reserve Account is a savings account, and the monies in it are available for Commission use, although prior approval of the town manager is necessary. These monies remain

allocated to the Commission and are not subject to the year-to-year budget process. The Commission's other account is subject to the yearly budget process;

5) Doug reported that the Commission received an award in May, granted by the Maine chapter of the Wildlife Society, an award that was granted to all 78 conservation commissions in the state of Maine for their work in the broad area of preservation of natural resources;

6) Doug mentioned that there is a meeting on July 17th of the Town Select Board, to which commission members are invited. Doug, Robin and Carla Ferguson will attend this meeting;

7) the harbor access walk is upcoming and many members expressed interest in participating.

The next meeting of the commission will take place on August 22nd.

These minutes are submitted by Robin Kern, secretary, as an accurate representation of the major topics discussed and agreed upon at this meeting.